

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /063 W

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R 171015Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9711

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0806

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJECT: FARAKKA BARRAGE: NO TALKS UNTIL WATER AVAILABLE,
SAY BANGALEES

REF: DACCA 0782

1. THE DACCA PRESS ON FEBRUARY 15 CARRIED A STATEMENT BY A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN SAYING THAT BANGLADESH SEES NO RPT NOT PURPOSE TO BE SERVED BY TALKS ABOUT FARAKKA BARRAGE UNTIL INDIA HALTS ITS PRESENT WITHDRAWAL OF WATERS. THE SPOKESMAN WAS REPLYING TO A STATEMENT REPORTEDLY MADE IN NEW DELHI ON FEBRUARY 12 BY "OFFICIAL SOURCES" THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH COULD MEET TO DISCUSS THE FARAKKA BARRAGE ISSUE IF BANGLADESH SO DESIRED.

2. THE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT REHEARSED THE BANGLADESH POSITION SET FORTH IN B.M. ABBAS' FEBRUARY 12 PRESS
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CONFERENCE (REFTEL) BUT ALSO WENT ON TO TOUCH ON ANOTHER

ELEMENT. THE STATEMENT NOTED THAT BANGLADESH HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED THAT THE FLOW OF THE GANGA AT FARAKKA BARRAGE BE AUGMENTED DURING THE DRY SEASON BY THE RELEASE OF WATERS STORED UPSTREAM IN THE GANGA SYSTEM BUT THAT INDIA HAD REJECTED THE USE OF ANY WATERS FROM EXISTING OR FUTURE STORAGE. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE INDIANS DID NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF APPROACHING NEPAL FOR BUILDING STORAGE CAPACITY. HE THEN REPORTEDLY SAID, "NOW...SINCE INDIAN AND NEPAL HAVE AGREED ON THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GANGES,... FRESH THINKING CAN BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSAL." THE STATEMENT THEN WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT ALL THREE NATIONS SHOULD JOIN TOGETHER TO MANAGE THE FLOW OF THE GANGA DURING DRY SEASON MORE EFFECTIVELY AND BENEFICIALLY.
BOSTER

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